



Basic Education Profile for South-South Nigeria

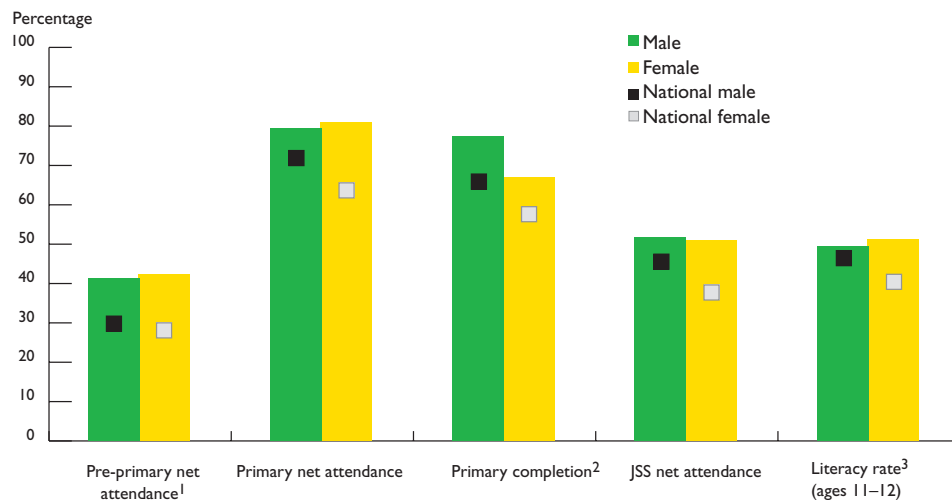
Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, and Rivers States



BASIC EDUCATION OVERVIEW

In the South-South, only 1 percent of 6- to 16-year-olds are Muslims, and the majority of them (90 percent) attend academic schools. The region has relatively high pre-primary, primary, and junior secondary school (JSS) net attendance rates, but still has not achieved universal basic education; literacy and JSS net attendance

rates are also only about 50 percent. There is no noticeable gender disparity in attendance and literacy rates except for primary completion, where males exceed females by about 10 percent. An additional effort must be made to get children into school and complete their education.



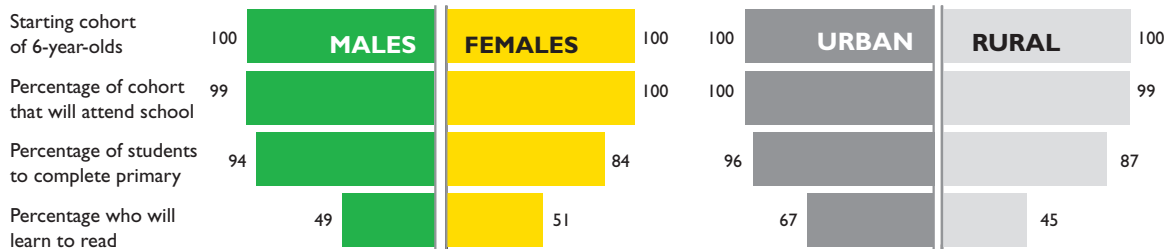
Source: EPDC extraction from DHS 2003 dataset

1. Pre-primary attendance is the percentage of children aged 6–11 who reported having entered school and who had attended pre-primary.
2. Primary completion rate is the number of children in the last year of primary school as a percentage of the population of 11-year-olds.
3. Literacy rate is the percentage of children aged 11–12 who can read a partial or whole sentence.

LEARNING PYRAMID: ACHIEVEMENT AND LOSSES IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

The learning pyramid shows the proportion of 6-year-olds likely to attend and complete primary school and be able to read a simple sentence by the time they are 12 years of age. In the South-South, almost all (99–100 percent) school-age children enter primary

school; girls and children from rural areas are less likely to complete it (84 percent and 87 percent respectively). Unfortunately, many who complete primary school will do so without learning to read: the region would benefit from improved literacy education.

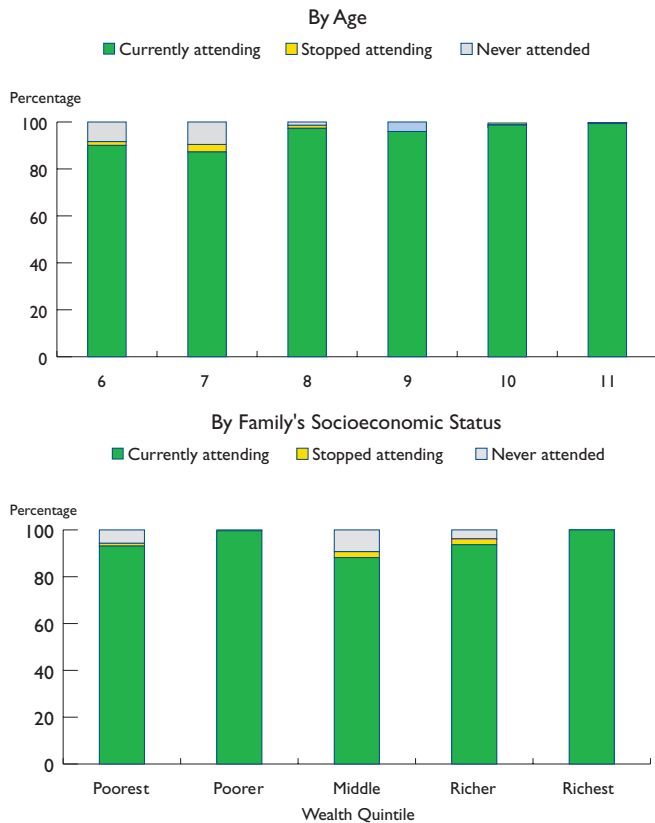


Source: EPDC extraction from DHS 2003 survey dataset

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE STATUS

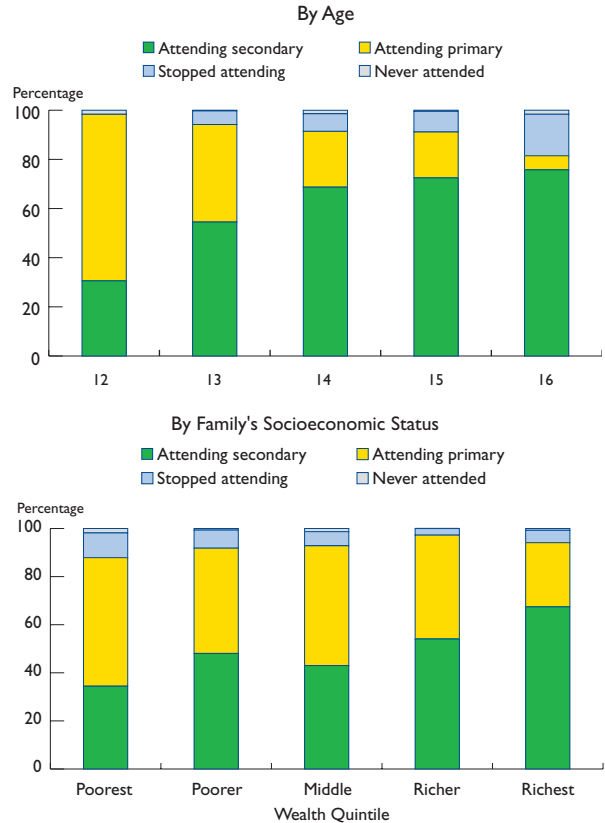
Primary School-Age Children

Socioeconomic status appears to affect students' attendance less here than elsewhere in Nigeria. By age 6, most children have entered school, though attendance rises slightly by age 11; some parents may see children aged 6–7 as too young for school. Programs more relevant to younger pupils or an education promotion campaign targeted at middle-class families might be helpful.



Secondary School-Age Children

These charts show attendance rates for children ages 12–16, the official secondary school ages. Net attendance rates for JSS are low for this age group, but attendance grows steadily, reaching 76 percent by age 16. However, many 12- to 13-year-olds are still in primary school. Children from richer households are the most likely to attend JSS at the official JSS school age.

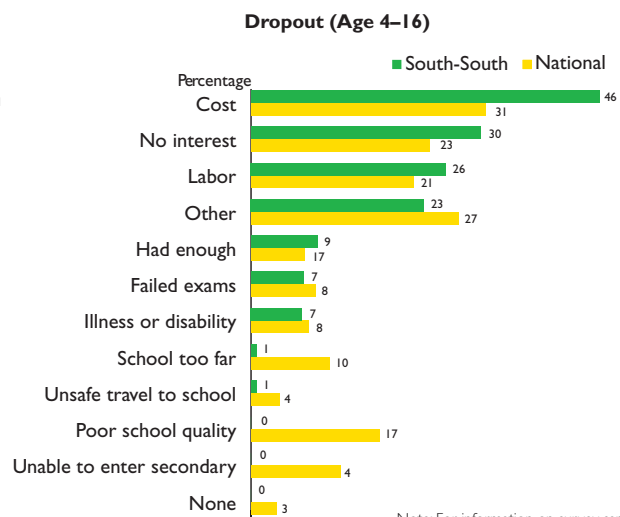
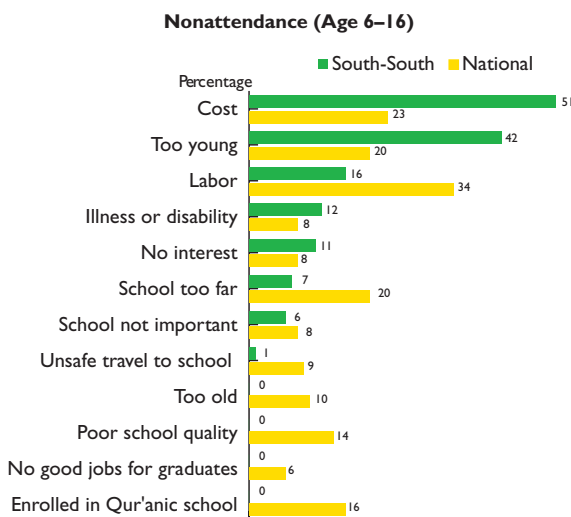


Source: EPDC extraction from DHS 2003 survey dataset. Note: Data on attendance are based on formal education figures.

FACTORS AFFECTING NONATTENDANCE AND DROPOUT

School costs and parents' perception that their children are too young are two of the main reasons for children never to have attended school, much more so than nationally. Student dropout

in this region is more affected by school costs, need for student labor, and lack of interest than in the nation overall.

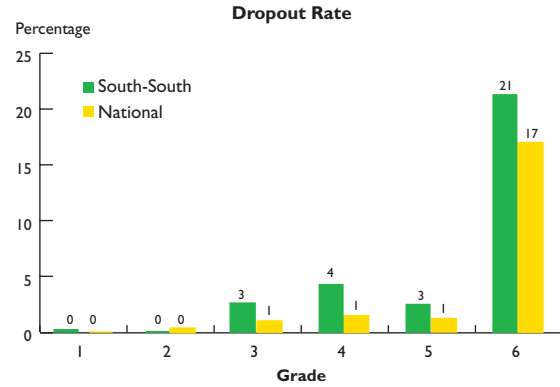
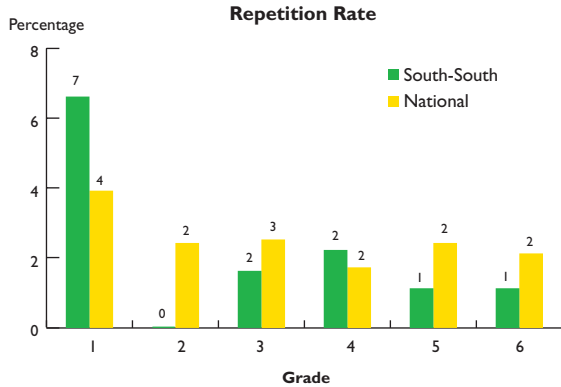


Note: For information on survey sample, see page eight. Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

EFFICIENCY: REPETITION AND DROPOUT RATES IN PRIMARY SCHOOL BY GRADE

Repetition rates in the region are below the national average overall except for first grade, at 7 percent; primary school entrants may be unprepared for school. Dropout rates are higher than the national average across all grades in primary school, with about 21 percent of students dropping out in grade 6, versus the national

average of 17 percent. Given that all children are expected to complete JSS, interventions are needed to raise the primary-to-JSS transition rate. This region can also benefit from programs to prevent high repetition rates in grade 1.



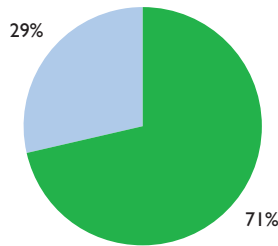
Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

STUDENT BACKGROUND AND SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Fathers are the key decisionmakers for children's education (53 percent), followed by parents together (27 percent). Most students live close to school (95 percent are at less than 30 minutes' walking distance). Students in government primary schools come

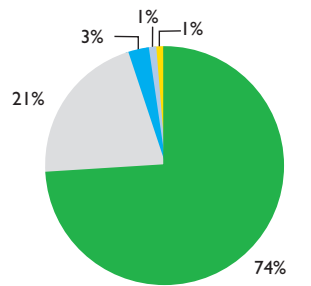
from all socioeconomic levels, whereas a large portion of students in private religious primary schools (62 percent) come from richer households. There are no nonreligious private schools in this region.

Percentage of Schoolchildren Attending Different Types of Primary Schools



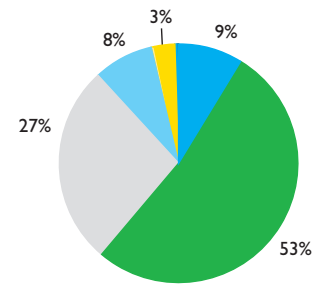
Legend: Government (Green), Private, religious (Light Blue), Private, nonreligious (Dark Blue)

Minutes Walking to Nearest Primary School



Legend: 0-15 (Green), 16-30 (Grey), 31-45 (Blue), 46-60 (Light Blue), 60+ (Yellow)

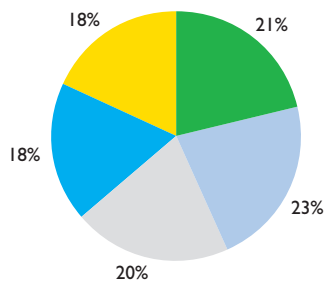
Decisionmakers for Children's Education



Legend: Mother (Blue), Both Parents (Grey), Parents/guardian with child (Yellow), Father (Green), Guardians (Light Blue), Someone else (Orange), Decision not made (Dark Blue)

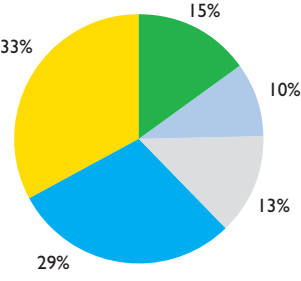
Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

Family's Socioeconomic Status in Government Primary Schools



Legend: Poorest (Green), Richer (Blue), Poorer (Light Blue), Middle (Grey), Richest (Yellow)

Family's Socioeconomic Status in Private Religious Primary Schools



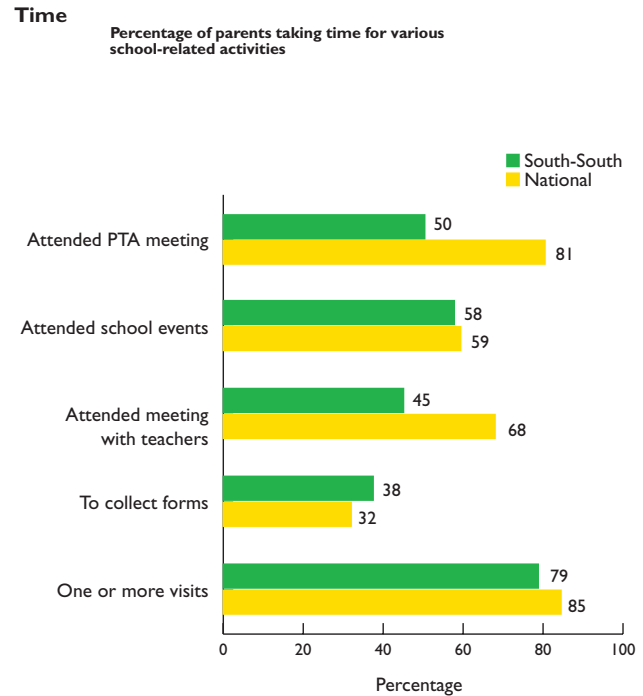
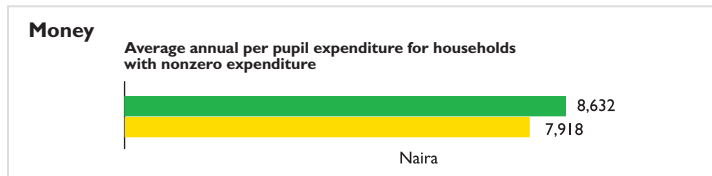
Legend: Poorest (Green), Richer (Blue), Poorer (Light Blue), Middle (Grey), Richest (Yellow)

Source: EPDC extraction from DHS 2003 survey dataset

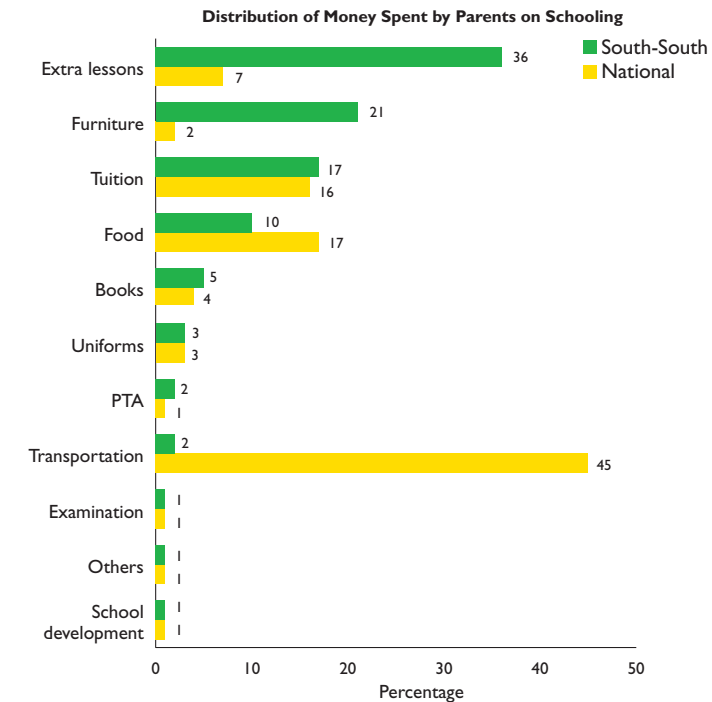
PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION AND INVOLVEMENT IN MONEY AND TIME

Parents in the South-South spend about 8,632 Naira annually for each student on primary school education, more than the national average of 7,918 Naira. Most of this goes for extra lessons (36 percent), furniture (21 percent), and tuition (17 percent). Of parents with one or more children in primary school, 79 percent

report having visited the school at least once, and 58 percent have attended school events in the past 12 months; both figures are close to the national average. But only 45 percent have met with teachers and 50 percent have attended PTA meetings, much lower than the national average.



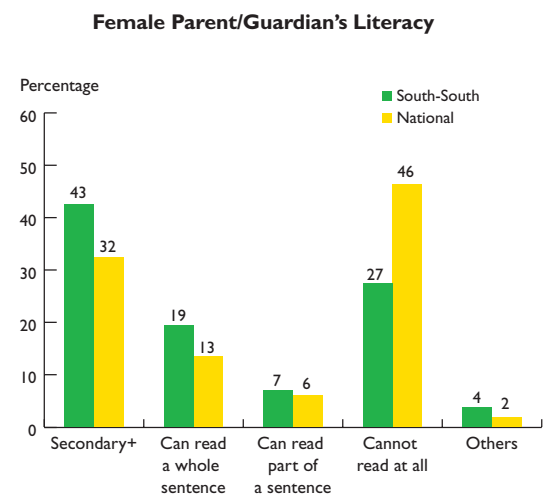
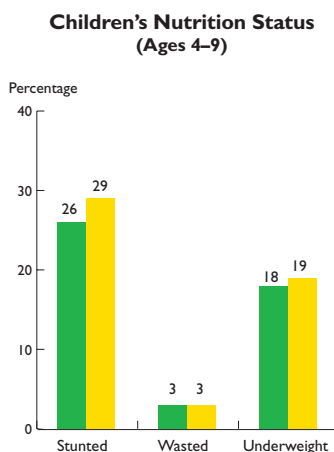
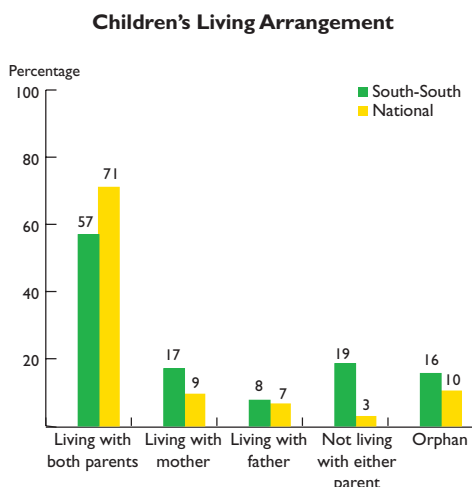
Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004



CHILD WELFARE

Only 57 percent of children live with both parents, lower than the national average of 71 percent. One in four children is stunted (a symptom of poor nutrition) and 18 percent are underweight, both slightly below the national average. The illiteracy rate among female

parents/guardians (27 percent) is well below the national average of 46 percent, and the proportion of mothers who have attained secondary school is 43 percent, well above the national average of 32 percent.

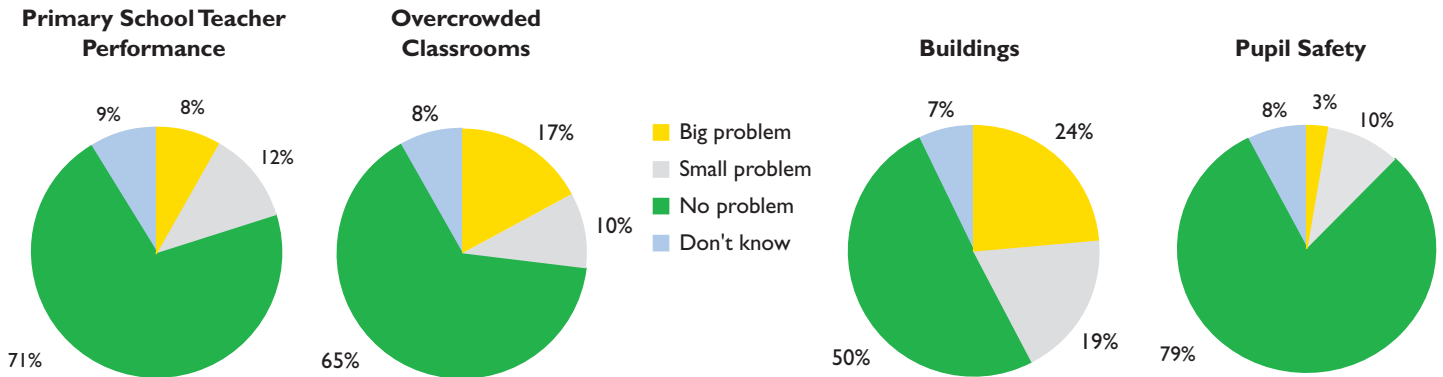


Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

PERCEIVED SCHOOL QUALITY

Overly crowded classrooms and poor school building quality raise concerns for many parents in the region. Somewhat fewer (20

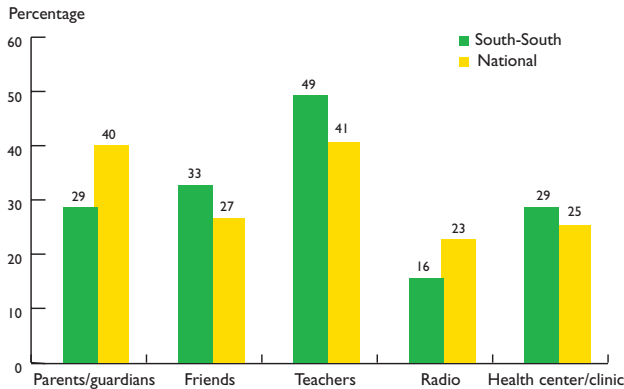
percent) see teacher performance as a serious issue, and still fewer (13 percent) are concerned about pupil safety.



Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

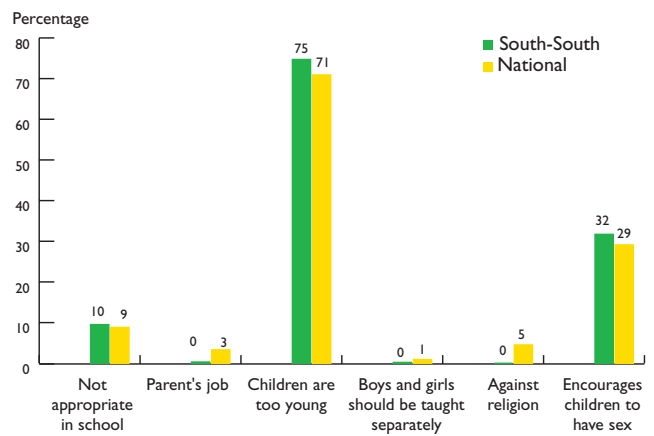
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Sources of Reproductive Education



Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

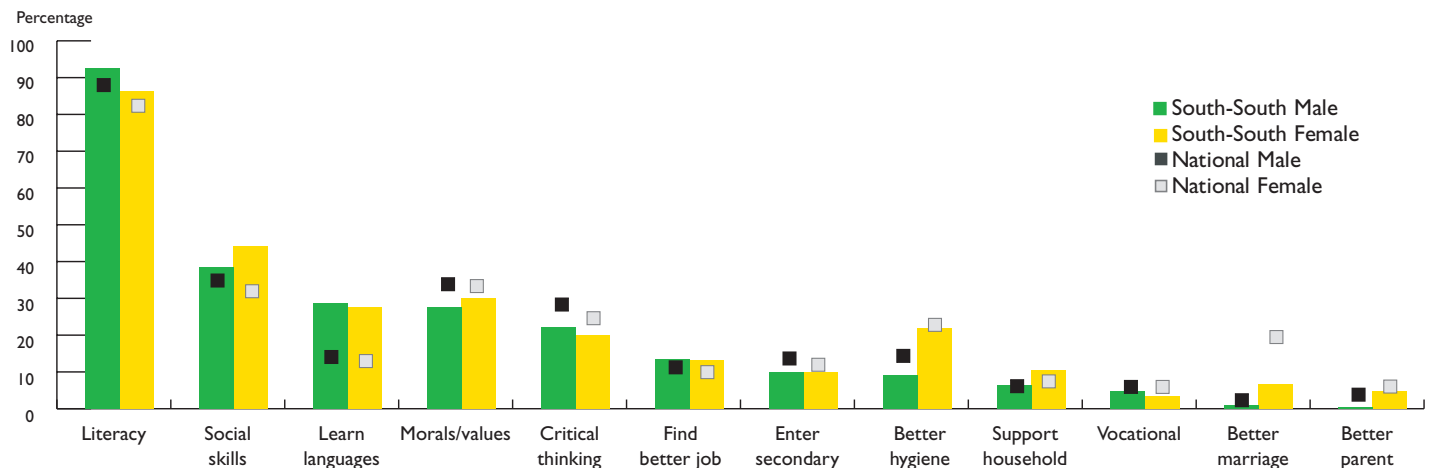
Reasons Primary Schools Shouldn't Provide Reproductive Education



VALUE OF SCHOOLING

Acquiring literacy and social skills are perceived as main values in primary schooling for 15-year-old children in the South-South. Parents and guardians in this region also value schooling to improve

language, whereas critical thinking skills and morals/values are considered slightly less of a reason for schooling than they are nationally.



Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

BASIC EDUCATION INDICATORS	National			Region					
	Total	Urban	Rural	North-Central	North-east	North-west	South-east	South-South	South-west
School Attendance (%)									
Children age 6–11 attending primary school	68	76	64	80	54	56	85	80	82
Children age 6–11 who have ever attended school that attended preschool	27	49	19	29	12	12	80	42	61
Children age 12–14 attending JSS	28	38	22	29	14	12	33	45	49
Children age 12–17 attending SS	35	46	29	38	19	15	49	52	61
Children age 12 who can read part of or a whole sentence	44	58	36	50	28	26	64	50	74
Primary completion	62	77	55	58	44	55	79	73	79
Factors Affecting School Attendance (%)									
<i>Factors in Never Having Attended School</i>									
Monetary cost	23	23	23	27	12	29	14	51	30
Labor needed	34	29	35	14	35	36	17	16	31
Child not interested	8	13	7	11	12	6	7	11	3
Child too young	20	24	19	20	17	21	79	42	35
Child too old	10	16	8	1	10	11	0	0	0
Child very sick/long-term illness	4	6	3	6	3	5	19	0	11
Child disabled	4	4	4	12	3	3	0	12	33
Travel to school unsafe	9	5	10	7	8	10	38	1	20
School too far	20	6	24	10	20	22	42	7	19
Poor school quality	14	4	16	2	14	15	22	0	0
No good jobs for graduates	6	9	5	1	3	8	0	0	0
School not important	8	11	7	3	10	7	0	6	0
Enrolled in Qur'anic school	16	30	12	4	24	13	0	0	0
<i>Factors in Primary School Dropout</i>									
Monetary cost	31	37	29	42	25	24	*	46	36
Labor needed	21	24	20	16	18	25	*	26	19
Failed exams/had to repeat	8	12	7	0	2	15	*	7	24
Child no longer wanted to attend	23	37	19	43	12	18	*	30	49
Child completed enough schooling	7	5	8	2	4	10	*	9	0
Child very sick/long-term illness	4	5	4	6	5	4	*	3	0
Child disabled	3	2	4	0	7	2	*	3	2
School too far	10	4	12	7	11	17	*	1	4
Travel to school unsafe	4	1	5	2	4	7	*	1	0
Poor school quality	17	11	19	0	18	31	*	0	0
Unlikely/unable to enter secondary school	12	6	13	2	2	25	*	0	4
Absenteeism 2002–2003 School Year (%)									
Primary school pupils missing one or more days	60	59	61	40	68	66	71	70	47
Secondary school students missing one or more days	53	50	55	42	61	62	67	61	37
Characteristics of Schools Attended (%)									
<i>Types of Primary School</i>									
Attending public primary school	61	51	67	70	79	71	43	49	43
Attending private, religious primary schools	16	19	14	16	7	20	63	20	27
Attending private, nonreligious primary schools	23	30	18	14	13	9	40	30	30
<i>Reasons for Choice of Primary School</i>									
Proximity	66	52	73	66	78	75	39	67	48

BASIC EDUCATION INDICATORS	National			Region					
	Total	Urban	Rural	North-Central	North-east	North-west	South-east	South-South	South-west
Quality	37	49	30	48	28	33	58	23	44
Expense	18	19	17	29	13	22	15	12	10
Religion	4	6	3	3	1	8	2	2	7
Safety	7	6	8	15	12	6	3	1	3
Other	5	4	5	7	0	3	7	6	6
Parental Involvement in Primary School (%)									
Attended PTA meeting	81	85	78	90	83	80	92	50	94
Attended school events	59	65	56	66	48	43	72	58	87
Attended meeting with teachers	68	72	66	78	73	70	76	45	74
Collected forms	32	37	29	32	18	28	37	38	43
One or more visits	85	88	82	91	77	79	94	79	96
Household Expenditures on Schooling (in Naira)									
Mean household expenditures per pupil on primary schooling	7,918	10,495	6,390	5,194	3,869	9,264	7,725	8,632	13,983
Mean household expenditures per pupil on secondary schooling	20,628	29,948	20,284	15,352	11,231	29,708	22,512	22,370	21,343
Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS, and Education									
Parent/guardian favoring primary schools teaching about reproductive health (%)	62	55	66	82	69	57	52	66	44
Age at which parent/guardian thinks <i>boys</i> should be taught about reproductive health	14	15	14	13	16	15	14	13	15
Age at which parent/guardian thinks <i>girls</i> should be taught about reproductive health	13	13	13	12	13	12	13	13	14
Parent/guardians favoring primary schools teaching about HIV/AIDS (%)	86	80	89	94	90	82	80	91	72
Children's Characteristics (%)									
Children's Nutrition									
Children age 4–9 who are stunted	29	19	34	22	32	36	13	26	22
Children age 4–9 who are wasted	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	1
Children age 4–9 who are underweight	19	14	21	12	21	24	11	18	18
Children's Literacy and Numeracy									
Children age 4–12 who can read	28	45	19	32	13	15	57	39	55
Children age 4–12 who correctly sum numbers	45	63	37	49	33	28	76	64	72
Child Welfare (%)									
Living with both parents	71	67	73	70	74	80	72	57	62
Living with female parent/guardian who cannot read at all	46	34	56	50	80	78	27	27	29
Orphaned	10	11	10	10	10	7	11	16	10
Educational Attainment of Adults (%)									
No schooling	42	30	48	36	62	66	15	15	21
Some primary	9	8	10	11	10	8	12	11	6
Completed primary	12	12	12	13	6	7	19	18	19
Some secondary	20	25	18	24	12	9	26	33	32
Completed secondary and beyond	16	24	11	16	9	9	25	23	22
Don't know/missing	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	1	1

South-South Nigeria

This education profile is intended to give a basic overview of the education sector in South-South Nigeria. The data are from the 2004 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) EdData Survey, and are linked to the 2003 Nigeria DHS. The profile highlights issues related to attendance, retention, learning, and teaching efficiency. It also provides information on parents' contributions to their children's schooling (in money and time) and their perceptions of schooling. One section focuses on overall welfare of children in the region.

Note: The survey question on nonattendance was asked of about 1,665 youth ages 6–16 who had not attended school for any reasons other than physical or mental disabilities. The survey question on dropout was asked of about 306 children ages 4–16 who had dropped out for any reasons other than physical or mental disabilities or long-term illness.



DATA INSIGHTS

The South-South region is made up of the states of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, and Rivers.

- Primary net attendance rate in the zone is around 80 percent, which reflects the large number of children who start school late. Most children will enter school by the time they are 11 or 12 years old. Although there are no noticeable gender disparities in access to primary school, girls are less likely to complete primary school than boys.
- The portion of children who in fact learn to read is much lower than would be expected given the school attendance rates. This implies that the quality of schooling needs to be improved, with emphasis put on basic literacy skills.
- The main factors in never having attended school are cost and parents' perception that their children are too young. For children who drop out, direct and opportunity costs are major factors. Many parents also cite a lack of interest in schooling.
- Repetition rates are much higher in grade 1 than in the rest of the grades and also higher than the national average. Transition into JSS is also an area of concern, as over 20 percent of children who reach primary 6 will not make it to secondary.
- Over 80 percent of children in the region attend public primary schools, and this may be the reason parents report spending a lot less on primary school expenses in this region than nationally. The main benefit of primary schooling that parents report is in helping children acquire literacy skills.
- In the South-South, teachers, friends, parents/guardians, and health centers, in that order, are the sources for young people's reproductive education. The majority of parents believe that children are too young to be provided with reproductive education in primary school and that such instruction can encourage their children to engage in sexual activities.